

THE JOURNAL



OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

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PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Founded 1915

610 Arlington Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707

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P.C.N.S. CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

☛ *New meeting address: 1515 –19th Avenue in San Francisco.*

July 26, 1989. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Sverige: The Necessity of Necessity Money

Speaker: Paul D. Holtzman

August 30, 1989. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

Medals from the Wreck of the S. S. Beaver

Speaker: David F. Cieniewicz

September 27, 1989. Wednesday at 8:00 pm:

White Elephant Sale

Everyone is invited to bring your numismatic, non-numismatic, and unwanted treasures or junk to contribute to our annual auction.

Monthly meetings are held at The New Telephone Museum in San Francisco
1515 –19th Avenue (between Kirkham & Lawton). Guests are invited.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

by David W. Lange



On June 14, I attended the ceremonial first striking of new commemorative coins marking the bicentennial of the Congress. This event took place at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. While it was an honor to be invited and a pleasure to attend, the occasion for me recalled the doubts that have compromised the positive experience of all similar ceremonies in the past. I was bothered by that little voice that speaks to me with the creation of each new commemorative program:

"Here we go again."

All things considered, this particular commemoration seems a worthy one. It is an occasion of national significance, and the proceeds are being directed to a laudable cause, the preservation of the Capitol building. Still, the ceremony was performed under the shadow of two other commemorative issues of dubious worth.

Legislation has already been passed creating a silver dollar to honor the centennial of Dwight Eisenhower's birth in 1990. While the bill's sponsors have shown commendable restraint in limiting this issue to a single denomination, the fact remains that the regular coinage of dollars from 1971-78 has already recognized this distinguished individual. This bill was introduced by the Senator who is not only a legislator from Eisenhower's home state but also the minority leader of Ike's old party. This partisan and regional appeal is highly reminiscent of the commemorative abuses of the 1930s and establishes a dangerous precedent for such programs in the future. While it may be argued that non-circulating commemorative coins are the most appropriate for honoring individuals, it is unlikely that Congress and the Treasury Department will see this as a mandate to restore to our circulating coinage the allegorical figures of old.

Another bill still pending calls for the striking of commemorative coins recognizing the centennial of the statehood of six western states in 1989-90. Not coincidentally, several of the states which are to be honored are major producers of the metals from which these coins are to be struck. Among the metals included in this legislation is palladium, the use of which has no historical precedent in United States coinage.

The message that I am trying to convey to PCNS members is that we should always judge for ourselves the individual merit of each commemorative issue. As collectors, we are the major consumers for U.S. Mint products. We hold the key to success or failure for these programs when we vote with our dollars.

NUMISMATICS IN BIBLIOMANIA

by Hugh Cooper

Dear Editor:

In "The Bookworm", No. 18 of The Journal, David Lange reviewed the latest issue of The Asylum, the schizoid organ of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society. As usual, he did an admirable job. But this time he left out something which I thought should have been included.

The enclosed article . . . appeared in that same issue . . . I wrote the piece to register with the readership the idea that coins are still more important to some of us than the books are



'La moneda es mozo del libro.'

- *Almuerzo por los Pajaros, D.Litt.*

Despite Aaron Feldman's advertising jingle, "Buy the book before the coin," most numismatic literature nuts will doubtless maintain that their mania began with coins, but the evidence as it appears in *The Asylum* is slender. In fact, when Dave Bowers sent in a piece entitled "A difference of opinion," Autumn, 1987, which chronicles an attempt to buy some coins but with a book story rather tenuously tacked on, the editor of *The Asylum* felt sufficiently uneasy about it that he justified the printing of it in "The last word".

Indeed there is scarcely any discussion of coins in these pages although they are the subject of all the literature discussed here.

For my own part, although making myself vulnerable to ridicule, I shall assert unashamedly that I spend more money on coins than on books. It is a failing I have no inclination to change. If books and other printed matter were my whole life I almost certainly would not specialize in numismatic publications.

Repugnant you say? Very well; my father agreed with you. One evening in 1946 he took me aside and confided that he had just acquired a first edition of *Moby Dick*, the London edition.

"The one by Herman Melville?" I asked.

"I know of no other," he said patiently.

"I have read it. Is the London edition more edifying or more entertaining?"

"Go away from me," he said in rebuttal.

Even in those brightly optimistic days after the war, I was more interested in the table of contents than I was in how a book looked on the shelf or in the catalog.

For those of you who wonder why I subscribe to this periodical, I can reveal that I am fascinated by lunacy, coins, coin collecting, and writing which refers to those subjects, however tangentially. For those who think that I myself am beside the point and think that my library consists of nine copies of the red book, I defend myself by reporting that actually I have all the twenty-eight different red books, their condition ranging from crisp unc to good. The readability is the

reason I own the books. I have never paid list price for a red book. I bought them all at yard sales or in thrift stores for a quarter or so. I do not know nor have I ever concerned myself with their resale value.

However, I have not told the whole truth. I have many publications about coins, tokens, and medals. Each is located in the part of the house where I am most likely to use it. For example, I keep Howard Newcomb's *US Copper Cents, 1816-1857* in another room, but near my work desk I keep John D. Wright's *Attribution Articles of US Cents, 1816-1839*. Why? Because Newcomb's book is useless to me. It is a hand-printed lugubrious tome, replete with errors and misinformation. I mistakenly bought it because there is no book on how to buy books wisely.

Also, I keep Breen's and Cohen's books on US half cents in separate places, partly because I use only Cohen numbers and partly because they clash when put together.

Otherwise my library is arranged fastidiously, though according to some fractional system rather than a decimal system. Some of my books are shelved left to right and some are shelved right to left—those on Chinese and ancient Judæan coins if I recollect properly. The spines of some read from top to bottom and others from bottom to top. Either the latter were manufactured by foreigners or I returned them to the shelves too hurriedly, upside down. I shall correct the mis-shelving as I detect them. It is not a constant fret to me.

As I said earlier I spend less for books than I do for coins. I still spend a heap of money on literature. I buy books and periodicals for their contents, not for their editions or bindings, so I buy through discount houses, used-book stores, yard sales and mail bid sales. I take advantage of targets of opportunity, so I own books and pamphlets about coins I do not yet collect and might never collect. Still, I read them.

My first edition of *Early American Cents, 1793-1814* by Sheldon (an ex-library copy) begins, "Generations of Americans have maintained a curious affection for 'old pennies' of the early years of the country. This affection for the early coppers has not as a rule been particularly associated with any general interest in numismatics, or with hobbies, or with the disease of collecting things."

Like most folks, I am afflicted by the bittersweet disease of collecting, but my affection is for the old pennies rather for sets of Cogan's lists or ANA convention catalogs or *Star Rare Coin Encyclopedias*.

It is through coins that I got here, and it is because of coins that my shelves groan with numismatic literature. Contrary to Professor Pajaro's dictum, the coin is not the servant of the book.

Ω

Reprinted from *The Asylum*, Winter 1988, with permission.

Hugh Cooper also has "observed a marked absence of bovine literature in the pages of The Journal" and has been ruminating over future articles relating to the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. He has been a member of PCNS for several years as well as a "resident" of The Asylum.



THE BOOKWORM

by David W. Lange

New Publications

A couple of new books have been announced recently. Already available is the *1989 Coin World Guide to U.S. Coins, Prices & Values Trends*. A rival to Yeoman's Red Book, the *Coin World Guide* is a 320-page paperback which contains much of the same information. Included are prices and mintages for all regular issues and commemoratives. A grading guide is also to be found, as are chapters on our coinage history, mintmarks, errors, and type collecting.

Omitted from this book are all non-federal issues such as colonial and territorial coinage. Also omitted are illustrations of the commemorative types. The chapter on "Classic Rarities" fails to mention such obvious choices as the unique S-mint half dime and three dollar coins of 1870.

On the plus side, the *Coin World Guide* includes a useful breakdown of mintages for the unmarked coinage of 1965-67. For instance, did you know that all of the circulating half dollars dated 1967 were coined at Denver? Mintage figures are placed in tables and are separate from the price listings. This makes for a much quicker reading of this information.

The *Coin World Guide* includes a chapter titled "Coin Market Analysis", reflecting the book's overall leaning toward the collector/investor population which so dominates today's numismatic scene. In contrast, the Red Book is of the Joe Friday school and contains "just the facts, ma'am".

In short, I can recommend the *Coin World Guide* to anyone who is actively collecting U.S. coins. However, it does not entirely replace the Red Book, and a copy of the latter should be retained. Ideally, a Red Book of any recent edition will do for one's home library, while the newest edition of the *Coin World Guide* should be carried to coin shows and club meetings. Retailing for \$4.50, the *Coin World Guide* is available from the publisher at P.O. Box 150, Sidney, OH 45365.

Another book soon to be published is of less widespread interest but still worthy of mention. *American Numismatic Sales and Promotional Literature* is a reference work detailing the various price lists, house organs, and newsletters put out by various numismatic firms during the 20th century. It was written by Remy Bourne, noted authority in this little-known field.

The book should be in print about the time that you receive this Journal. Without a copy in hand, I can only pass on what information the publishers have provided. It will be a large format book running 300 pages and will include nearly 125 illustrations. Card covers and spiral binding are being utilized to keep the price down to the actual production cost of \$50.00.

Although this price seems high and will doubtlessly discourage the casual reader, it must be remembered that such works reach a limited but very eager market. Should the American Numismatic Association's Library acquire a copy,

Continued on page 19

1946 IOWA STATEHOOD CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE HALF DOLLAR:

The Unknown Coin Designer—Adam Pietz

by Michael S. Turrini

A few years ago, I became interested in the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial Commemorative Half Dollar, questioning and studying how Iowa, out of the hundreds of proposals received by the Mint—and there were that many— was honored with a coin, even in face of a threatened presidential veto. My research included many references and much correspondence. I found no clear, concise reason explaining Iowa's success. In the process, I learned of the men involved with it: the governor who wanted it, the powerful congressman who proposed it, the greed-inspired promoter of the contemporary Booker T. Washington commemorative half dollar who bandwagoned Congress to adopt both, and the unknown but very skilled and capable man who designed it, Adam Pietz.

Adam Pietz, in the numismatic work and art of our nation, is a non-identity; however, he was a skilled craftsman and prolific medals designer. This short article, the first in a planned series of three, is a tribute to this man and his craftsmanship. The second article will discuss the Iowa half dollar itself and the third article will explain how Iowa was selected from the hundreds of proposals and made it to the coin press. This first article is about its designer, Adam Pietz.

Adam Pietz was born on July 19, 1873, in Offenbach-On-Main, Hesse, Germany. Pietz began his education at the Academy of the Fine Arts in his native land. He emigrated to the United States in 1889 and, in 1897, established himself as an engraver and die sinker in Philadelphia. He maintained his studio and home for decades at the same address: 1001 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia. He continued his studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the renowned Chicago Art Institute.

While he remained most of his adult life and career in private work from his studio-home, he did serve as an assistant chief engraver at the Mint in Philadelphia from 1927 to 1946. He retired just as his only coin design, the 1946 Iowa Statehood Centennial Commemorative Half Dollar, was being minted. Even in his retirement, he remained active doing medal designs on contract for the Department of the Treasury. Among his works for the Treasury Department in the years after 1946 are the Department's Meritorious Service Award Medal in 1949, Alexander Hamilton Medal (reverse only) in 1955, and the Distinguished Service Award in 1963, first bestowed after Pietz's death in 1961. In addition, Pietz also in 1948, with the assistance of John R. Sinnock, the Mint's Chief Engraver, designed and engraved the Exceptional Service Award.

Although his active career spanned over fifty years, no complete listing of his works has come to this author's attention. It would be a fair conclusion based on what references do provide that his most productive period was before his appointment to the United States Mint position. Listings in biographical sources and *The Numismatist* issues of the 1920s provide an extensive listing of his sketches, medals and plaques.

The Numismatist of January 1922 reported "two recent productions by Adam Pietz, the well-known designer and engraver".¹ These were the Distinguished Service Kiwanis Medal and the Priestley Medal, also for exemplary service, awarded by the American Chemical Society. Pietz stated in the brief notice that the Kiwanis Medal had been "designed and modelled . . . in three-inch size"² and that the "Priestley Medal was designed and entirely hand-engraved by him in two-inch size"³, a testimony to the man's craftsmanship. During the same period, Pietz designed a medal to honor Benjamin Franklin, whom he admired. He was also commissioned to do the modeling and engraving of a medal by the Bell Telephone Company. These medals were to be presented to members of the 406th Telephone Battalion, Signal Corps, who served in the Western Front trenches of World War I. These four medals are but only a few that he created or engraved. A biographical source noted that he "made a great many medals of which he has kept no record"⁴. This same source lists briefly several other of his creations and commissions, many with extremely small mintages, less than a hundred in some, plus medals of a personal nature as his "My Mother" Medal of 1910. Pietz along with medals did plaques as for Stephen Decatur, the Naval hero, placed at the Philadelphia Navy Yard in 1913. As a numismatic aside, the Kiwanis medal was struck in bronze, the Priestley medal was minted in gold, the Franklin medal in light bronze, with the Telephone Company having approximately 200 of its medals in silver.

As previously noted, Pietz worked for some years as an assistant chief engraver with the United States Mint. During the 1940s, Frank Gasparro, later chief engraver, was assigned by then chief engraver John Sinnock "to learn how to engrave in steel"⁵. Gasparro, in an article published in Bowers and Merena's *Rare Coin Review* #65, stated he saw "Mr. Pietz engrave steel like butter with his powerful hands". Gasparro, who most certainly admired Adam Pietz, described him as "very strong"⁶ and said that he "commanded respect when he approached you"⁷. Apparently Pietz was a physically strong and athletic person as he had been in his youth a top single scull oarsman in Germany. Gasparro, who worked and learned under Adam Pietz, noted in his training that Pietz told him that you can "push steel around with a hammer and your hands if you have confidence in yourself"⁸. Gasparro credited this education as "most useful to me in later years"⁹.

It is quite clear that Frank Gasparro, both then and now, admired Adam Pietz, praising him in his article as "truly a great craftsman"¹⁰ and stating forcefully that there are "few engravers living today who can match the talents possessed by Adam Pietz"¹¹. This testimony is the highest tribute and attests to Adam Pietz's craftsmanship which is unknown to most of the contemporary numismatic fraternity. Gasparro wrote to this author reporting that he did witness Pietz "modeling the design"¹² for the Iowa half dollar to which Pietz explained how he got the proper height for the reductions and the coinage die.

As already noted, Adam Pietz's only coin design was this 1946 commemorative half dollar. Although it is not definite, he was most likely assigned this due to his aforementioned craftsmanship and impending retirement. Legislation authorizing this commemorative half dollar had been signed by President Truman only in August with the law requiring coinage (100,000 total) to be minted in that same year (Iowa's centennial year), giving

credence to the fact that the Mint was under pressure. Thus, Pietz, with his established craftsmanship, was directed to model the design quickly.

The Commission of Fine Arts, which has the right to review all coinage designs but no authority over such, seemed not impressed with his design, giving "no objection to the minting . . . in view of the fact that the models were submitted at such a late date" ¹³. In fact, Don Taxay in his *An Illustrated History of U.S. Commemorative Coinage* uses the words "reluctant approval." It should be noted from the date legislation was signed—August 7, 1946—to the date designs were submitted to the Commission—September 13, 1946—did not give much time for Pietz to develop a more elaborate or creative design. Pietz did witness the initial minting of his work. There seems to have been no striking ceremony.

Regardless of the time involved or the Commission's disinterest at the period, Cornelius Vermuele in *Numismatic Art in America* holds a much more positive view:

The whole coin, the work of Adam Pietz of Philadelphia, is boldly and spaciouly laid out. The cloudy background of the capitol adds a touch of interest. The way the eagle hangs down or hovers above its fillet and mottos recalls carved or painted signs, including ship transoms, made in the nineteenth century. Characterized by details of planting, ivy below and around the Federalist windows, "The Old Stone Capitol Iowa City" has a liveliness not usually found in these vistas of official architecture. . . The only general criticism of the design, a minor one, is that the major lettering seems a trifle large, out of scale. In sum, conventional motifs have been handled with skill ¹⁴

Vermuele's opinion gives much more credit than others at the time or since concerning Pietz's only coin design. Ed Rochette, in a recent article, noted that although credited with only one coin design, Pietz did submit models for both the Washington quarter and Jefferson type five cents, both of which "were considered, though not used" ¹⁵. In this same article, Rochette notes that during the Depression years of the 1930s, Pietz designed a series of small aluminum quarter-size medals of famous Hollywood stars of that day for a promotional campaign for Popsicle.

Adam Pietz's numismatic work, however, did not end with his retirement. Rather, his next major creation remains in use to this day by the world's largest numismatic organization, namely, the American Numismatic Association's (ANA) Medal of Merit. First shown in the January 1948 issue of *The Numismatist* as a pen sketch, the medal design was readily accepted with one minor change. It was shown in the May 1948 issue as a finished medal engraved to the first recipient, Louis S. Werner. Pietz, who at the time resumed work from his own studio, replied in a letter published in the same May issue that "this commission has given me more joy to create than any previous job in my life" ¹⁶.

No reference records a full or near complete list of his commission or designs in those years after the ANA Medal of Merit. He did continue to live in Philadelphia where it may be assumed that he continued working as age and health permitted.

There is no direct evidence that Pietz was an active numismatist. He did hold membership in the American Numismatic Society, held #1608 in the ANA, having joined in 1912, and was a member of the William Penn Coin Club in Philadelphia. At the 1962 ANA convention, he would have received his gold fifty-year membership medal.

He died on December 6 or 7, 1961, at Philadelphia's General Hospital of heart and kidney disease; two different dates have been given for his death. He was survived by a daughter and a granddaughter. His obituary in *The Numismatist* of March 1962 noted that he had "become a world famous steel die engraver and sculptor" ¹⁷, an ability remembered by his one-time assistant and later chief engraver for the United States Mint, Frank Gasparro.

It is not fair that this man who was a contemporary of the renowned John Sinnock and a teacher to Frank Gasparro seems to have been forgotten by the numismatic fraternity. It is quite clear that his craftsmanship and capability were well known in his day. Even the ANA obituary uses the words "world famous" ¹⁸, but his skill and art were only once given to a coin.

It is a tribute and kind recognition that Frank Gasparro some forty years later will speak so highly and reverently of Adam Pietz, but it is sad that so much of his work is unknown or forgotten. It is a shame that fellow coin designers such as the husband and wife team of the Frasers, Robert Aitken and Gutzon Borglum are much more well known and studied while Adam Pietz and his work have never been critically and completely researched and reviewed. It is hoped that this article will change some of this by informing numismatists of the man who could be called America's most forgotten coin designer, Adam Pietz.

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 14. Cornelius Vermuele, *Numismatic Art in America*, p. 216.
 15. Ed Rochette, "Eperson Created Famous Frozen Treat By Accident", *Numismatic News*, XXXVII (November 22, 1988), 26.
 16. *The Numismatist*, May 1948, p. 335.
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1989 LITERARY CONTEST RESULTS

Congratulations to all the 1989 literary contestants. On behalf of the society's membership, the editors thank the authors for the fine articles which make The Journal possible.



First Place

From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston



Second Place – Tie

Eric Kondratieff — *Coins of the Roman Procurators in Judaea*

L. A. Saryan — *Armenian Coins and Armenian History*

Honorable Mentions

Gary L. Clement — *The Story of Silver*

Matthew Rockman — *Coin Production in Ancient Greece*

Journal Contributors

Ken Barr, Steve Blacik, Mark Clark, Ivan Florine, David W. Lange, Roger W. Langton, Alan Luedeking, Jerry F. Schimmel, Stephen A. Seelig, Frank Strazzarino.

The Syngraphics Scene

by Ken Barr

A Survey of Sacramento County National Banks

National bank notes, issued between 1865 and 1933, are the only money issued by the federal government which can be collected on a local, regional or state basis. Other types of notes and all forms of coinage (since 1792) are more universal in scope, only traceable back to the mint of origin or the Federal Reserve district for which it was printed. Collectors of national bank notes, however, can limit their interests to the county in which they now live, the state in which they were born, or even a single city which is important to them.

For us Californians, Sacramento County in which our capital is located makes an interesting study in national bank note demographics/history. County-wide, a total of five chartered banks (six titles) issued a total of 3,046,148 notes. As of January 1988, only 311 of these notes are known to still exist in dealer or collector hands. Despite this seemingly small number, Sacramento must rate as a "common" town as far as national bank notes are considered, since at least 6 notes are known from each of the six titles, and at least 12 small-size notes are known from each of the three titles which issued small-size notes. In fact, the Capital National Bank has at least one note known of every type and denomination issued by the bank—one of only a handful of banks nationwide able to make this "commonness" claim!

For purposes of comparison, the city of San Francisco has one bank with no notes reported, three banks with only two notes each reported, and two banks with only three notes each reported. Los Angeles, similarly, has one bank with no notes known, one with one note known, and a third with three notes known. (And as far as San Jose is concerned, if anyone has a note from the Garden City National Bank, Charter 3715, CALL ME!)

Interestingly, some of the scarcest type notes for the whole state of California come from Sacramento county. The red seal \$50 from Charter 8504 is one of two red seal \$50 notes reported in the whole state, while the red seal \$100 from Charter 7776 is unique, the only reported red seal \$100 from California! Additionally, the brown back \$100's from Charter 2014 are two of only seven brown back \$100's in the state.

Historically, the life and times of the Sacramento County national banks are quite dull compared to their brethren in other cities. Three of the banks went through their national bank period without any acquisition or divestiture:

1. Fort Sutter NB, chartered in June 1905, voluntarily liquidated in August 1920, later absorbed by the Sacramento—San Joaquin Bank of Sacramento;
2. Capital NB, chartered November 1911, status today unknown, but may have been renamed to the Sacramento First NB;
3. Merchants NB, chartered November 1920, still in existence today at 1015 7th Street, still set up as a 1920s vintage bank.

The other two banks weaved together eventually: The National Gold Bank of D.O. Mills & Co. was chartered in September 1883, voluntarily liquidated itself

on April 10, 1926, and was absorbed by the California NB, which had itself been chartered in October 1906. The combined bank did not survive the Depression, and went into receivership in January 1933. The name may have been reclaimed by an eventual successor, however, as the Sacramento telephone book lists a "California National Bank" at 515 L Street, but this may also simply be a non-related bank that picked this name at the time of its founding.

Finally, a short "wheat versus chaff" tidbit to keep everyone on their toes: Until recently there were no reported type 2 notes from Sacramento's Charter 11875 bank. The note which inspired this article is the discovery piece of that type for that bank, proving that there indeed is rarity even among commonality, provided one knows where to look!

Any readers of this column owning Sacramento (or any California) national bank notes which may not be included in the census is invited to send full information on the note(s) to Ken Barr, P.O. Box 32541, San Jose, CA 95152. For large-size notes, include the type denomination, both the treasury and bank serial numbers, plate letter and grade. For small-size notes, include the type, denomination, serial number and grade. I will be sure to include any new items on my next update to Bill Raymond.

The National Gold Bank of D. O. Mills & Co., Sacramento - Charter 2014

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$100</u>	<u>\$500</u>
First Charter, Original Issue						
Total Notes Printed	7,960	3,723	3,641	604	604	60
Notes Known Today	25	5	2	1	0	0

The California National Bank of Sacramento — Charter 8504

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Thlrd Charter, Red Seal					
Total Notes Printed	92,500	35,730	11,910	2,280	2,280
Notes Known Today	3	3	1	1	0
Thlrd Charter, Date Back, Blue Seal					
Total Notes Printed	275,320	153,000	51,000	4,000	2,000
Notes Known Today	4	3	3	1	0
Thlrd Charter, Plain Back, Blue Seal					
Total Notes Printed	387,231	129,077			
Notes Known Today	18	11			
1929, Type I					
Total Notes Printed	165,882	44,346			
Notes Known Today	67	27			

The Capital National Bank of Sacramento — Charter 10107

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>
Thlrd Charter Date Back, Blue Seal			
Total Notes Printed	32,400	19,080	6,360
Notes Known Today	1	1	1

Thlrd Charter, Plain Back, Blue Seal			
Total Notes Printed	357,152	178,785	59,595
Notes Known Today	21*	7	8
* includes one sheet			

1929, Type I			
Total Notes Printed	132,732	63,072	14,436
Notes Known Today	6	7	9

1929, Type II			
Total Notes Printed	23,820	15,715	4,384
Notes Known Today	2	6	2

The Fort Sutter National Bank of Sacramento — Charter 7776

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Thlrd Charter, Red Seal					
Total Notes Printed	23,000	14,040	4,680	590	590
Notes Known Today	2	1	1	0	1

Thlrd Charter, Date Back, Blue Seal					
Total Notes Printed	6,660			37,652	12,684
Notes Known Today	0			0	0

Thlrd Charter, Plain Back, Blue Seal					
Total Notes Printed		22,185	7,395		
Notes Known Today		0	1		

The Merchants National Bank of Sacramento — Charter 11875

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$100</u>
Thlrd Charter, Plain Back, Blue Seal					
Total Notes Printed	79,920	38,529	12,843	3,150	1,050
Notes Known Today	2	3	2	0	1

1929, Type I

Total Notes Printed	24,204	10,776	3,876	1,764	540
Notes Known Today	4	3	2	1	2

1929, Type II

Total Notes Printed	7,304	3,631	1,140
Notes Known Today	0	0	0

The National Bank of D. O. Mills & Co., Sacramento — Charter 2014

<u>Denomination</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$50</u>	<u>\$100</u>
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First Charter, Series of 1875

Total Notes Printed	9,669	3,223
Notes Known Today	0	0

Second Charter, Brown Backs

Total Notes Printed	54,000	28,500	9,500	4,460	4,460
Notes Known Today	5	2	0	0	2

Second Charter, Date Back

Total Notes Printed	36,460	35,925	11,975	339	339
Notes Known Today	2	2	0	0	0

Third Charter, Date Back, Blue Seal

Total Notes Printed	42,000	14,000	10,482	3,494
Notes Known Today	0	1	5	5

Third Charter, Plain Back, Blue Seal

Total Notes Printed	121,020	46,788	15,596
Notes Known Today	9	5	0

References

John Hickman and Dean Oaks, "Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes"
 Bill Raymond, California National Bank Note Census (January 1988 issue)

*The Fugio Cents of 1787 were the first coins authorized
 and issued by the government of the United States
 for general public use.*

From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston

FUN WITH ΠΤΟΛΕΜΥ & ΚΛΕΟΠΑΤΡΑ

Egypt: 323 to 30 BC

I admit it. I am a collector of Ptolemaic Egyptian bronzes. I am not the only afflicted *PCNSer*, but I have survived it longer than most. It seems to be incurable. At times I have even exposed previously innocent victims to this illness, and a few of them succumbed. I have no regrets, except that I didn't start sooner and have more money to throw down this apparently bottomless pit.

The coinage in question was struck in Egypt and its possessions during the reigns of the Ptolemies. Ptolemy I was Alexander the Great's general who had the foresight to head directly for Egypt when Alexander died in 323 BC. Alexander had conquered Egypt, marching in as the liberator who drove out the Persians. The local people were happy to make him their new Pharaoh.

Ptolemy I realized that Egypt had the most wealth, the best natural defenses, and the most supportive inhabitants of all the areas they had taken. While others wrangled over Alexander's corpse, Ptolemy set up his kingdom.

By the time Alexander's funerary procession was enroute from Babylon to Macedon, Ptolemy was ready to attack! He marched against the procession, took custody of Alexander's corpse, and returned to Alexandria, Egypt, where he placed the corpse in a crystal casket as a symbol that he was the natural successor to Alexander. (Alexander was still *on view* during the time of Emperor Augustus.)

Ptolemy didn't claim to reign in his own name for 18 years, preferring to be viewed as *Governor* for the dead Alexander. Ptolemy took the title *King* in 305 BC, and his heirs ruled for about 10 generations, until Cleopatra VII lost her kingdom and her life in 30 BC, when Egypt passed to Rome. The lives of these rulers provide wonderful entertainment, though having a warped sense of humor certainly increases the laughs.

Ptolemy I accepted local Egyptian customs to gain the acceptance of his new subjects who preferred him to be Alexander's successor, the Pharaoh. It was not proper for a royal *god* to marry a mere mortal, so Ptolemy married the daughter of Nectanebo, the last native Pharaoh. Next he married the daughter of the royal regent of Macedon, adding one of her ladies-in-waiting to his wives a few years thereafter. Polygamy was common, but, as royal spouses became scarce, later Ptolemies married their own sisters, a practice normal to the earlier Pharaohs.

Ptolemy II, son of the *lady-in-waiting*, was a lover of luxury and entertainment. He is recorded as having put on the most costly and largest parade in history. He supported the local fertility cults and provided some startling entertainments. He eventually married his own sister—his second marriage and her third. (She was the *evil stepmother* of her last husband's first wife! It gets worse. She was the widow of her own half-brother who had killed the king who killed her first husband. Of course, she had been her husband's mother-in-law.)

Ptolemy III married his cousin after she killed her first husband for being her mother's lover. Ptolemy left her to rule Egypt while he fought in Syria to protect his own sister, who had been given in marriage to the Seleukid king to seal a short-lived treaty. He failed in that fight, but went on to attack the Persians with great success.

Ptolemy IV visited the Temple in Jerusalem and was outraged that he was not admitted to the Holy of Holies therein, complaining that he had his own temples. He sent grain to Rome after Hannibal's attack had destroyed crops. He married

his sister, Arsinoë, but he is reputed to have spent his own time in orgies or recovering from bouts of drunkenness.

Ptolemy V became king at age 5, but his regents were inept or scoundrels. His coronation was held at age 12, and the *Rosetta Stone* dates from this event. It remains the high point of his reign for historians.

Ptolemy VI, VII and VIII are a mess of separate and joint reigns which you can sort out for yourself if you are foolish enough to get interested. Ptolemy VI was also about age 5 when he inherited the throne. Ptolemy VII seems to have missed striking coins during his short rule prior to sibling rivalry bringing Ptolemy VIII to power.

Ptolemy VIII is credited with ending the family power struggle by serving one of the royal heirs to his Queen for dinner. His Queen, Cleopatra II, was his sister and widow of his brother. He was the last Ptolemy to strike bronze regularly until Cleopatra VII, nearly a century later.

Cleopatra VII was quite plain judging from her coin portraits which, not surprisingly, resemble those of most of her male relatives. As Queen of Egypt, she was the ruler of the wealthiest country in the known world, and this may have added to her charms when she offered alliances with the Roman military leaders, Julius Caesar and Marc Antony. She committed suicide when Rome took Egypt. Her heirs, Cleopatra Selene and Ptolemy, ruled other areas in North Africa for Rome for at least two generations, but the Ptolemaic Dynasty of Egypt died with Cleopatra in 30 BC.



*Ptolemy III, struck circa 246 BC,
Æ 34 with Zeus head on obverse.*

Photo by Stephen M. Huston

The bronze coins from the Ptolemies generally carry a head of Zeus on the obverse. One or two eagles standing on a thunderbolt with the legend ΠΤΟΛΕΜΑΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΟΣ, *Ptolemy King*, make the common reverse. Many common varieties range in size from 32 to 42mm diameter, making them among the largest collectible Greek coins. Most of the Zeus/eagle types can be obtained for \$35-\$75 in Fine to VF, though specimens of the larger sizes bring surprisingly high prices in top condition.

There are more than a hundred collectible varieties, all attributable by varying mint and control marks as well as some scarce to rare types which don't fit the classic Zeus/eagle pattern. Some time and a bit of study may allow almost any collector to locate varieties which are still *unpublished*.

Please, don't even consider collecting these! I don't need the competition.

*From the Idle Mind of Stephen M. Huston is a regular column of
The Journal which focuses on ancient and medieval times.*

WHY CHINESE CASH?

by Ivan Florine

What are the characteristics of Chinese cash?

Let's first study the shape of this coin. There is an external round shape and a central square hole. There are several explanations for these facts. As you know, the Chinese, more than our Western ancestors, have always given importance to religion. Many legends have a mystical aspect. The different elements of nature play important roles in the daily life of the Chinese. The sky and its elements explain quite a lot of things. Do not forget that calendars are based on the cycles of the moon and the sun. The external round shape of the cash represents the sky.

What about the square hole? In order to establish a link between the celestial elements and the human beings, something must represent the latter. What can better represent them than the planet they are living on? Do not forget that to westerners it is not so long ago that we learned that Earth is not flat but spherical. The square represents our blue planet. A world map is well represented by a rectangle on our walls, so this is not as crazy as you may think!

Well, you say that life is and was not ruled by religion? You are right! People cannot forget that these strange pieces of metal have to be made. In order to understand the technical aspect, let's first see how the metal has been turned into a cash. You must be aware that we are not in the 20th century Anno Domini but hundreds of years before Christ. At that time the marvelous machines that we have now certainly did not exist. The coins are not minted but cast. They poured out the metal infusion into a two sided-mould. One mould for one cash? Certainly not! They usually worked on a tree basis. Consider an apple tree with its fruit. The trunk and the branches are the canals through which the metal infusion goes, and the apples are the future cash. When the apples are ripe they are removed from the tree. It is exactly the same with the cash; when the liquid metal has turned back into a solid, we can open the double-sided mould and take out the tree with its fruit. The fruit is plucked. Of course, the shape of the cash is not as round as it should be, so the coins have to be corrected by filing. How? A metallic stem was introduced through the central hole and then the cash were filed. If the central hole were round, what would happen during this operation? The coin would turn and no good filing could be done. If the hole has a square shape it prevents the coin from turning with the movement of the file. This is the technical reason for having a square central hole and not a round one!

For large payments, many cash were needed. To be sure to receive the correct amount, the seller would have to spend time counting the thousands of cash. To make things easier, the Chinese decided to use, generally, strings of 1,000 cash for more important sums. This is a practical use of the hole. Another use is that, as we saw above, the Chinese are quite superstitious. It was a custom, and it is still one in some villages in Taiwan nowadays, that at each birthday a cash was given to the child, starting at his birth. In order to bring luck and to preserve him against evil, the child had to wear them at his neck.

Our description of the shape of the cash would not be complete if we do not speak about the rims. As you know, a coin travels a lot as its main purpose is to be a way to get something you do not have. When you travel a lot, you are tired. When a coin travels a lot, its good condition becomes bad, so by friction parts of the coin are removed and, in general, the coin becomes lighter and lighter. This is a normal explanation to the loss of weight but, unfortunately, it is not always the case! As the value of the coin is mainly given by the metal it contains, dishonest persons decided to remove some of the metal in order to make new coins. This phenomenon has existed everywhere on Earth, and that is why there are edges bearing inscriptions, lines, stars, etc. As something had to be changed in order to protect the coins in a better way, the Chinese created a little outer rim and a little inner rim (because stealing the metal could be done from the inner part, too, due to the presence of the hole).

The Bookworm, continued from page 6

this may represent a reasonable alternative to purchasing one of your own. However, persons wishing to include this work in their home libraries may obtain a copy from The Money Tree, 1260 Smith Court, Rocky River, OH 44116.

Another book which is not new but which may have escaped the attention of PCNS members is *Aspects of the Numismatics of North America*, edited by C. F. Gilboy. Published a few years ago by the Regina Coin Club of Saskatchewan, this collection of writings features various topics which touch upon the numismatics of Canada, Mexico, and the United States. Among the subjects detailed are coins, medals, tokens, paper money, and banking. While the greater emphasis is on Canadian numismatics, the information presented reflects much of the history of numismatics common to all of North America.

Recognized names among the list of authors include R. C. Willey, Q. David Bowers, and Sanford J. Durst. The book is printed in large format and runs 288 pages. Slick paper is used throughout, and virtually every page is illustrated. The book is hardcovered and comes with a plated dustjacket. A recipient of the Numismatic Literary Guild's "Book of the Year" award, this work is a quality production.

The Regina Coin Club has offered PCNS members a discount on *Aspects* provided that five or more copies are ordered. At only \$15.00 US, this seems to be a worthwhile opportunity. I will have my own copy of the book at the July meeting of PCNS for your examination. If the minimum number of persons will commit to purchasing a copy, then all can benefit.

Persons unable to attend the meetings may express their interest in writing. Please do so before the August meeting, at which time a determination will be made as to whether the minimum order has been met.

JEFFERSON NICKEL VARIETIES

by Herbert Miles

The collecting of Jefferson nickels has undergone dramatic changes during the past twenty-five years, changes so dramatic that the set really cannot be completed from circulation any longer. This development somewhat distresses me since I derived great joy from attempting to complete a set during the early '60s, finally doing so with the discovery of the elusive 50-D in 1968.

What concerns me now is that young collectors, of which we seem to have so few, probably will never have the same joy of search and satisfaction I had because the silver or "war nickels" have not circulated in large numbers since the great 1980 silver melt.

However, all is not lost because the 1960s ushered in the era of uncirculated roll collecting! The patient Jefferson collector has the opportunity now to search through hundreds of uncirculated coins from broken rolls for the numerous varieties which have been discovered over the last two and one-half decades. The discovery of a valuable 1943 over 1942 overdate, or a 1939 doubled Monticello, or one of the major varieties which command substantial premiums over a normal five-cent piece is very possible.

Following is a list of 25 different interesting and potentially valuable varieties which a young collector (or an older one!) may find through diligent searching.

1) 1939 VARIETY II REVERSE. The reverse hub was reworked in 1939 creating two distinct varieties: the reverse of 1938 which has wavy and indistinct steps and the reverse of 1940 which has very straight and well-defined lines representing the steps. It is very easy to distinguish the two, and there are circulation and proof strikings of both varieties. The proof 1939, reverse of 1940, is exceedingly scarce and valuable, the circulation strike less so.

2) 1939 PROOF, REVERSE OF 1940. This variety is the proof striking of the Variety II Reverse mentioned above. For many years, collectors thought that all 1939 proofs were the "wavy step" variety; thus, when several proof "straight step" examples were discovered, Jefferson collectors immediately searched their own sets to see what variety they had.

3) 1939 DOUBLED DIE REVERSE. A circulation strike with the words "Monticello" and "Five Cents" doubled (similar to 1955 and 1972 cents). The doubling can be seen with the naked eye although it is not as wide as the 1955 cent.

4) 1940 PROOF, REVERSE OF 1938. During 1940, either through inadvertence or error, some proof coins were minted with the 1938 reverse-style steps (wavy). These coins are valuable and scarce and a cherry-picker's delight when discovered.

5) 1941 S, LARGE MINTMARK. Not a valuable coin, but interesting and collectible.

6) 1941 S, SMALL MINTMARK. As above, interesting to compare the two.

7) 1942 DOUBLED DIE OBVERSE, COPPER-NICKEL COMPOSITION. Jefferson's nose, forehead, and the lettering around the periphery of the coin are doubled. Scarce but not highly collected yet.

8) 1942 D, D OVER HORIZONTAL D. The 1942 Denver issue is scarce in its own right, especially in high grades, and this variety is an extra added bonus for the collector.

9) 1942 S, COPPER-NICKEL COMPOSITION, S TO SIDE OF MONTICELLO. Only one of this extreme rarity has ever been discovered; sold in 1974 for \$11,000, but I will admit that I am continuing to search!

10) 1943 P, 43 OVER 42. So far, the only overdate Jefferson. For many years collectors believed the under 2 was a die crack, but Del Romines discovered an uncirculated coin and it was authenticated as a true overdate. Very scarce and costly.

11) 1942-1945 UNCIRCULATED SILVER NICKELS WITH REPUNCHED MINTMARKS. All are known with repunched mintmarks, and all are avidly collected. Not costly unless repunching is very easily seen.

12) 1943 DOUBLED EYE. Another doubled die with Jefferson's eye and dimple doubled. Highly sought after, expensive, and scarce.

13) 1945 P SILVER, DOUBLED DIE REVERSE. The doubling appears on the right side of Monticello and the right side of the words "Cents" and "Monticello". Scarce but good cherry-picking possibilities.

14) 1946 D, D OVER UPSIDE-DOWN D. Say that fast three times. The curve of the "D" is easily seen jutting from the left side or straight leg of the regular "D".

15) 1949 D, D OVER S. Very scarce and expensive. The "S" is easily seen under the "D".

16) 1954 S, S OVER D. Available in lower grades, but scarce in uncirculated with a good strike.

17) 1955 D OVER S. There are 11 or 12 different die varieties; easily discovered, not expensive, but interesting.

18) 1966 PROOF. Only two specimens were struck. One was presented to Felix Schlag, the nickel's designer, and the other is unaccounted for at present.

19) 1971 S PROOF, WITHOUT MINTMARK. Only 1800 minted, so cherry pick if you can. Very expensive.

20) 1979 S PROOFS, TWO VARIETIES—CLEAR "S" & MUSHY "S". The clear mintmark is the scarcer of the two.

21) 1981 S PROOFS, TWO MINTMARK VARIETIES. These varieties are less distinguishable than the 1979 S proofs. Variety I is very similar to the 1979 clear "S", and Variety II, the scarcer, has a larger circular opening within both loops of the "S" and a more pronounced "teardrop" type form at each end of the mintmark.

22) 1982 S, TYPE I & TYPE II REVERSES. Type two has well-defined lines in Monticello's roof, dome, steps and porch. Type I is mushier in appearance.

23) 1944 P COUNTERFEIT 5 CENT COINS. Not legal to own and why would anyone counterfeit such a small denomination coin? Collectible as an educational tool only.

24) ANY "HOBO" JEFFERSON NICKEL. I have never seen any (the Indian or Buffalo 5 cent was the usual recipient of such sculpting), but if they exist, I am sure collectors would highly prize them.

25) A DANIEL LAUX FRAMED & SIGNED SET. Mr. Laux had purchased 100 sets of uncirculated nickels prior to a chance meeting with Felix Schlag at a coin show in Detroit. To honor the designer, he assembled the sets in frames, included a signed certificate by Felix and sold them through a dealer friend in 1982. They sold for \$650 plus postage at that time, and I believe a set would be a worthwhile addition to a nickel collector's portfolio now.

There you have it. Twenty-five different specimens, sets, or oddballs to whet your collecting appetite. Many can be found for no extra premium besides your knowledge and patience, so good hunting!

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The PAK Jefferson Full Step Nickel Club and its various publications.



Herbert Miles is an avid collector of Jefferson nickels by variety. He is the current vice-president of PCNS and an unrepentant Iberiaphile which his wife tolerates due to her own medieval inclinations.

SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH ITS TOKENS

by Jerry F. Schimmel

California Street Cable Railroad

The California Street Cable Railroad began operation in 1878 and was organized and financed by the Central Pacific Railroad magnate, Leland Stanford and his associates. The original route began at California and Market Streets and eventually was extended to the Presidio Avenue intersection. Later the company operated the Jones/Pine/Hyde line. This latter was discontinued after the operations were purchased by the City and County of San Francisco in the early 1950s. However, the original line is still in operation as far west as Van Ness Avenue, the remainder now being served by smoggy diesel buses.



The 16mm nickel-plated bronze token states on its obverse "California St. Cable R.R. Co., One Fare." The reverse reads "Good For One Fare." According to Atwood, the token was issued in 1946, but for many years afterward the tokens were sold and accepted by the Municipal Railway for use on its street cars and buses, and, in fact, will probably still be taken in lieu of a cash fare by city drivers.

Sources: The Cable Car Book by Smallwood, Miller, DeNevi, 1980.
The Atwood-Coffee Catalogue of United States and Canadian Transportation Tokens by Atwood and Coffee, 1983.

Photo by Stephen M. Huston of a specimen from the author's collection.



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